

SUPPORT FOR THE AMENDMENTS

The present amendment cancels claim 15, amends claims 10, 13, 21, 23 and 29, and adds new claim 31.

Claim 15 has been cancelled, and claims 10, 13, 21, 23 and 29 have been amended, to address the Examiner's objections to these claims and place these claims in a better condition for allowance.

Support for the amendment to claims 10 and 13 is found at specification page 12, lines 14-21, as well as original claims 10 and 13.

Support for the amendment to claim 21 is found at specification page 8, lines 30-38, as well as original claim 21.

Support for the amendment to claim 29 is found at specification page 7, lines 33-39.

Support for the amendment to claim 23, and newly added claim 31, is found at specification page 10, lines 13-17, and page 15, lines 23-30, as well as original claim 23.

REMARKS

Claims 1-14 and 16-31 are currently pending in the present application. Claim 15 has been cancelled, claims 10, 13, 21, 23 and 29 have been amended, and new claim 31 has been added, by the present amendment.

The rejections of: (1) claims 1-3, 6-9 and 11 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as being anticipated over Oles (U.S. 2002/0150723); (2) claims 10-17 and 20-29 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Oles; (3) claims 18 and 19 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Oles in view of Keller (U.S. 2002/0016433); (4) claim 30 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Oles in view of Huffer (U.S. Patent 6,783,807); and (5) claims 4 and 5 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Oles in view of Nun (U.S. 2003/0013795), are obviated by perfecting a claim to foreign priority thereby antedating Oles and Nun as prior art references.

The present application is a 35 U.S.C. § 371 National Stage patent application of International patent application PCT/EP03/001114, filed on February 5, 2003, which claims priority to German patent application DE 10210673.8, filed on March 12, 2002.

Applicants have enclosed herewith a certified English translation of foreign priority document DE 10210673.8, thereby antedating Oles and Nun as prior art references.

Applicants respectfully submit that a certified English translation of International patent application PCT/EP03/001114 (WO2003/076169) is not required since the present application is a 35 U.S.C. § 371 National Stage patent application, and thus an accurate English language equivalent, thereof, as further evidenced by paragraph 6 of the enclosed letter to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office submitted on September 10, 2004, as well as the enclosed internet publication indicating that WO2003/076169 is also published as U.S. 2005/0167877 (Application No. 10/506,604).

Withdrawal of these grounds of rejection is respectfully requested.

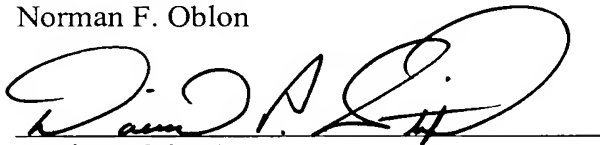
The rejection of claim 29 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph (written description), is obviated by amendment. Withdrawal of this ground of rejection is respectfully requested.

The rejection of claims 10, 13, 15, 21, 23 and 29 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, is obviated by amendment. Withdrawal of this ground of rejection is respectfully requested.

In conclusion, Applicants submit that the present application is now in condition for allowance and notification to this effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.
Norman F. Oblon

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David P. Stitzel", is written over a horizontal line.

David P. Stitzel
Attorney of Record
Registration No. 44,360

Customer Number

22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000
Fax: (703) 413 -2220
(OSMMN 06/04)